

City of Bloomington Traffic Commission Minutes
September 28, 2016 in the Council Chambers, City Hall
(As amended by the Traffic Commission on 10/26/2016)

Traffic Commission minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings of the meeting are available in the Planning and Transportation Department for reference.

Attendance

Traffic Commission: David Alley (proxy), Andrew Cibor, Ryan Cobine, Markeus Farrand, Judi Maki, Abigail Pietsch, Sarah Ryterband and Joe VanDeventer

Others in Attendance: Jason Banach, John Grigutis, Greg Jacobs, Brock Ridgway, Amanda Turnipseed, Neil Kopper (staff), Nate Nickel (staff) and Natasha Jensen (staff)

- I. **Call to Order** (~5:30 PM)
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Mr. Cobine motioned to approve, and Mr. Cibor seconded to approve the July 27, 2016 minutes. **The motion passed 8-0.**
- III. **Public Comment** – Mr. Grigutis addressed the commission on his concerns for the Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association and the safety of those entering and exiting the neighborhood. He read a letter to the commission that was authored by the Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association. He addressed the concerns of turning onto E. Blue Ridge Drive from southbound N. Walnut Street, turning onto southbound N Walnut Street from E. Blue Ridge Drive, and the northbound traffic on N. Walnut Street using the shoulder to pass. Mr. Grigutis also requested a traffic study at this site. He asked that the study be done while IU is in session to fully address the impact of traffic in the area. Ms. Ryterband explained that she would like to see a traffic and speed study done in the area, but the commission would defer this issue to staff.
- IV. **Communications from Commission** – Mr. Cibor provided updates on underway city transportation projects. He noted the signal timing projects on E 3rd Street and College Mall, W 3rd Street and Bloomfield Road, and 17th Street.
- V. **Reports from Staff** –
 - A. **90 Day Orders** – Mr. Cibor explained the changes that would be made on Fess Avenue between Hunter Avenue and University Street. Parking on Fess will switch from the west to east side. Signage will be updated. Next, Mr. Cibor spoke on the requirement of those exiting the north-south alley east of Walnut to stop as well as allowing bicycle traffic to be permitted to travel in the opposite direction of the one-way vehicular traffic. Mr. Cibor then spoke on the requirement of those on Walnut Grove to stop for traffic on 11th Street. Mr. Cibor explained that these 90 Day orders would just clean up the current code, plus reflect Traffic Commission recommendations from previous meetings and project related changes.
- VI. **Old Business** – none

VII. New Business –

- A. Delete BMC 15.32.130** – Mr. Nickel provided an overview of this proposal. Mr. Cibor explained that deleting the City code would remove any conflict between State and City codes, and that he recommended the removal. Mr. Cobine motioned to approve and Ms. Maki seconded. **The motion passed 8-0.**
- B. E 11th Street between Woodlawn Avenue and Forrest Avenue – remove north-side on-street parking and change traffic direction** – Mr. Kopper explained that the staff did support this change to the traffic direction and parking on E. 11th Street. Mr. Ridgway clarified that IU has an immediate need to allow trucks to access Woodlawn. To do this, it would be necessary to increase the radius of the intersection and change the traffic direction on 11th Street. He explained the necessity of acting quickly to ensure IU has access. Mr. Ridgway addressed Mr. Cobine's question on the temporary aspect of the design as well as the anticipation of it needing to change once again. Mr. Cibor brought up how the design will be a loss of parking for adjacent properties. Mr. Banach explained that IU does own on all sides of the proposed design, except for the fire station, and is supportive of the removal of on-street parking. Mr. Cobine motioned to recommend the approval of the design put forth. Ms. Pietsch seconded. **The motion passed 8-0.**
- C. 8th and Grant Streets intersection – modify stop controls and on-street parking configuration** – Mr. Kopper addressed the concern of line of sight on 8th and Grant Streets. He explained that shrubbery and parked cars do block views. Mr. Kopper went on to explain that the traffic flow on Grant is stopped even though it has higher traffic volumes than 8th Street. Mr. Kopper recommended switching the side of Grant that permits parking to not limit sight distance and to switch the street that has stop control. Ms. Maki questioned if the city could remove the shrub that was currently blocking line-of-sight. Mr. Cibor explained that it would not be necessary to trim the shrubbery, but instead they could reduce the overall delay/number of stops, as well as remove the line of sight issue with the proposed changes – a win-win proposal. Mr. Cobine motioned to recommend these changes to 8th and Grant Streets. Mr. Farrand seconded. **The motion passed 8-0.**
- D. S. Highland Avenue – modify on-street parking configuration** – Mr. Kopper explained that this issue came from a previous inquiry. The corner on S. Highland does limit line of sight. Mr. Kopper provided two options to correct the issue. Option 1 included shifting parking to the east side of the street. This would restrict four parking spaces and the sidewalk would be less comfortable. Option 2 included leaving the parking as is, but restricting the three northernmost spaces. This would shift over traffic, but would be less aesthetically pleasing, as they put up posts to keep vehicles in recommended spaces. Mr. VanDeventer mentioned the possibility of making the street a one way going south. Mr. Kopper explained that they could make it a one way going north or south, but picking one of the two options presented would be the least intrusive way to solve the problem. Ms. Ryterband felt that the posts mentioned in Option 2 are often ignored, and in some cases are driven over. Mr. Cobine brought up the issue of the current parking and who makes use of it. Mr. Kopper explained that it is zoned parking. Ms. Maki discussed the possibility of moving parking to the east side exclusively. Mr.

Cobine explained that he found it beneficial to have parking on both sides of the street. Mr. Kopper also mentioned that vehicles could still pull up even if they stripe, paint, and restrict parking. Mr. Farrand said he preferred Option 2, as it provided less clutter and would allow traffic to flow easier through the area. Mr. Kopper mentioned that Option 2 would be the easier option to implement, as it is difficult to remove the existing striping necessary for Option 1. Mr. Farrand also noted that he was not concerned with the posts, but he did not necessarily see them as a necessary portion of the solution. Mr. Kopper went on to explain that they were not a vital piece of Option 2. Mr. Cobine motioned to recommend the implementation of Option 2, leaving the posts to staff discretion; Ms. Maki seconded. **The motion passed 8-0.**

- E. Traffic Speed Enforcement Requests** – Mr. Nickel addressed the Commission asking for their guidance on the process of taking and investigating concerns of speeding. He explained that the process now is for staff to notify the Bloomington Police Department of the concerns. He went on to ask whether the Commission would recommend formalizing this process to be similar to the traffic inquiry system in place, and whether the Commission wanted communication from staff on these concerns. Mr. Cobine mentioned that he would not want to change the flow of the current system, but suggested it may be beneficial to collect data and semi-annually address the commission on the details of numerous complaints of similar nature. He included that he found value in the Commission looking into this data in the aggregate. Mr. Farrand mentioned that any time the Commission can look into these complaints, it would be beneficial, but he also would not want to disrupt the current process. Ms. Ryterband said that there are issues of safety and speeding, but it is not necessarily always an issue that the Traffic Commission would consider. She mentioned that it would be an unnecessary burden to consider each complaint received, but having access to the data as a whole would be valuable. Ms. Pietsch mentioned that the Bloomington Police are correcting the issues. Ms. Ryterband explained that being able to show speed and raise consciousness of the actual speeding problem may be useful.

VIII. Traffic Inquiries

- A. S. Walnut Street – School Speed Zone Request (Bloomington High School South)** - Mr. Nickel described the details of this request. He noted that there is currently a School Speed Zone for the high school on Henderson Street, but not one along S. Walnut Street. Mr. Farrand asked for staff input on signage. Mr. Cibor noted that some signs for School Zones are not necessarily clear, including “When children are present” signage. He went on to explain that flashing lights to indicate at what times speed is to be reduced may be helpful. Mr. Cibor also noted that there is a very long stretch that is currently codified as a School Zone, and it would be more useful to limit this to where you actually see students typically traveling. Ms. Ryterband stated that she was surprised there was not already a School Zone there and believes without lights indicating the need to slow down, motorists would ignore the signage. Ms. Maki noted that she would recommend a School Zone to be created in that area. Mr. Cobine mentioned that there will be a new trail on Henderson, and the character and nature of this area will be changing soon. Ms. Pietsch said that she would want to know more about the traffic and pedestrian activity there because it is a high traffic area. Mr. Cibor and Mr. Nickel agreed that staff could look into the issue further and report back to the

Commission. Mr. Cobine mentioned that a School Zone may be too simple of a solution, and that the Commission would want to check in on this issue again in more detail.

- IX. Adjournment (~6:30 PM)**
Next Meeting – October 26, 2016